DAAD

Bi-nationally Supervised Doctoral Degrees / Cotutelle • **DAAD**

Overview

Objective

This programme offers you the opportunity to do a bi-national doctoral degree at your home university and at a university in Germany.
There are two possible options:

Option a) Doctorate with bi-national supervision:
Your doctoral project is supervised by a university teacher both at your home university and at the host institute in Germany (so-called 'sandwich model'). **Your project must be agreed with both supervisors according to the following procedure:**

- You start your doctoral degree in your home country.
- This is followed by research trips to Germany.
- You complete your doctorate in your home country and are also supervised by the German academic adviser.
- Your home university awards the doctoral degree.

Option b) Doctorate following the 'Cotutelle' procedure:
Funding is provided for doctoral projects that are carried out at the home university and at a university in Germany according to the so-called Cotutelle model. This is based on an individual cooperation agreement which is concluded individually for your doctoral project by the participating universities. After you have successfully completed your doctorate, the German university and your home university award the doctoral degree **jointly.**

Who can apply?

Depending on the nature of your project, you can apply for:
a) bi-national supervision based on the 'sandwich model'. You can apply if you have earned a Master’s degree or Diplom (or in exceptional cases a Bachelor’s degree) at the latest at the start of the funding period.
b) 'Cotutelle model'. You can apply if you have been admitted to a doctoral programme at the latest at the start of the funding period.
Please also note die information under ‘Application requirements’.

What can be funded?

- **In option a), a doctorate with bi-national supervision based on the 'sandwich model'**, research stays at a state or state-recognised institution of higher education or a non-university research institute in Germany (as part of a doctoral programme in the home country) are funded.
- **In option b) a doctorate based on the 'Cotutelle model'**, research stays at a state or state-recognised institution of higher education in Germany are funded. These allow doctoral students to complete a doctoral thesis which is supervised and carried out bi-nationally on the basis of an individually concluded cooperation agreement.

Duration of the funding

- Funding is provided for between 7 and a maximum of 24 months.
- Grants can initially be awarded for a maximum of 24 months. Your academic achievements will be assessed once a year. If this shows that you will successfully complete your doctorate within a reasonable period of time, the scholarship will continue as planned.

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- The length of the funding period is determined by a selection committee and depends on your project and study plan.
- The grant can be used flexibly for several shorter stays during your doctoral project.
- When you apply for the grant, you should outline in your study plan and time schedule (see ‘Application documents’) how you intend to divide your time between Germany and your home university.
- If you plan to visit other countries (e.g. to collect material), please specify these plans in your application. Such visits can only be funded if they take place in connection with your visit to Germany and they do not exceed one quarter of your expected total funding period.
- Funding must begin in 2027. You can find more information under ‘Application deadline’.

Value

- Monthly payments for doctoral candidates during the stay in Germany: 1,400 euros. Please note that no scholarship payments are made during stays at your home university.
- Payments towards health, accident and personal liability insurance cover
- Travel allowances [https://static.daad.de/media/daad_de/pdfs_nicht_barrierefrei/im-ausland-studieren-forschen-lehren/daad_reisekostenzuschuesse_stipendiaten.pdf] (upon application only) for up to three outward and return journeys unless these expenses are covered by the home country or another source
- A research allowance of € 460
- Travel and accommodation expenses according to the German Federal Travel Expenses Law for your supervising university teachers for one trip of up to 10 days
  - to Germany to monitor progress,
  - to your home university to take part in final examinations.
  Please indicate the trips in the time schedule (see 'Application documents') when applying.

Under certain circumstances, you can apply for the following additional benefits for uninterrupted stays of over 6 months in Germany after start of funding:

- monthly rent subsidy (please read the → important scholarship information [https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/scholarships/important-information-for-scholarship-applicants/] / section F, point 9)
- monthly allowance for accompanying members of family. Please also read our → important information for scholarship applicants [https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/scholarships/important-information-for-scholarship-applicants/] / section F, point 3.
- In case of a disability or chronic illness: on application, a subsidy may be provided for justified additional costs incurred abroad that are necessary to realise the project in Germany and that are not covered by a third party; whether and to what extent a subsidy will be paid, will be reviewed and determined on an individual basis (see → important information for scholarship applicants [https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/scholarships/important-information-for-scholarship-applicants/] , section F, point 8)

To enable grant holders to learn German in preparation for their stay in Germany, DAAD offers the following services:

- Payment of course fees for an online language course after receipt of the Scholarship Award Letter
- if necessary: Language course (2, 4 or 6 months) before the start of the research stay; the DAAD decides whether to fund the grant holder's participation and for how long depending on language skills and project. If a language course scholarship is granted and the working language at the host institute is German, participation is compulsory.
- Allowance for a personally chosen German language course during the funding period

- Reimbursement of the fee for a TestDaF or DSH test, which you can take either in your home country after you have received your Letter of Award or in Germany during the funding period

Benefits from third parties are partially credited towards the DAAD scholarship. Information on this can be found in the
→ important scholarship information [https://www.daad.de/en/studying-in-germany/scholarships/information-for-scholarship-applicants/]
in section F, point 6.

Selection

An independent selection committee consisting of specialist scientists reviews applications.

The selection criteria are:

1. Qualification

- Academic achievements (grade point average, development of grades)
- Academic progress
- Knowledge of the language(s) of instruction or working language(s)
- If applicable, scholarly achievements after graduation, (e.g. publications, lectures, conference papers)

2. Quality of research project

- Quality of research proposal and preparation (originality, topicality and relevance of the project, choice of host institution and first contacts)
- Feasibility and consistency of study plan and time schedule
- Incorporation of project within the overall doctorate (in terms of content and time), if relevant

3. Potential of applicant

- Career prospects: significance of the research project and stay in Germany for further academic, professional and personal development
- Motivation: academic and personal reasons for wanting to visit Germany, German language skills (if different from working language)
- Non-study-related activities: non-study-related knowledge and skills, civic engagement

The selection committee also gives due consideration to equal opportunities; you can provide relevant information in the application form.
For more information on the selection procedure, go to
→ Important Scholarship Information [https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/scholarships/important-information-for-scholarship-applicants/]
/ Section E.

Application requirements

What requirements must be met?

Please check if the following criteria are fulfilled:

- As a rule, your most recent university degree should have been obtained no more than six years ago before the application deadline.
- If you have already started your doctorate, it also applies that the start of the doctorate should not be longer than 3

years ago at the time of application.
Please also read our
→ Important Scholarship Information [https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/scholarships/important-information-for-scholarship-applicants/]
/ Section A, point 2.

- Your application **cannot** be considered, if you have been resident in Germany for longer than 15 months at the application deadline.

Note:
For applicants from the fields of human medicine, veterinary medicine and dentistry, other regulations are applicable. Please refer to → www.daad.de/extrainfo [https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/scholarships/scholarship-database/additional-information-medicine/].

Application Procedure

Application deadline

Application deadlines are updated annually in the second quarter. In most cases, they are in the same period as the previous year. You can find the current dates here:

06.08.2026
Funding decision will be taken in February 2027. Start of funding: October 2027

Application documents

After registering on the DAAD portal, please complete the **online application** in full. Then upload the application documents listed below to the DAAD portal in the section ‘Attachments’.
Application documents may be scanned in non-certified form and uploaded to the DAAD portal. The DAAD reserves the right to request certified copies of the documents.

If you submit documents in your national language, please also include **German or English translations** (see also the
→ Important Scholarship Information [https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/scholarships/important-information-for-scholarship-applicants/]
/ Section D, point 4).

Documents to be submitted to the DAAD portal:

- **Full curriculum vitae** in tabular form (max. 3 pages)
- **List of your published publications** (max. 10 pages), if applicable
- **Letter of motivation** (1-2 pages): Please describe your academic and personal reasons for your planned project in Germany, taking account of the following question: What do you hope to gain from your project in Germany (personally, professionally, for your career)? Please upload the letter of motivation under ‘study project/motivation’ in the DAAD portal.
- **A proposal** (max. 10 pages in total): Please write a a description of your research project (prepared and formulated by yourself) which has been discussed with the academic adviser in Germany. Please also read our
  → Important Scholarship Information [https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/scholarships/important-information-for-scholarship-applicants/]
  / section B, point 2. Please upload the proposal under ‘research project’ in the DAAD portal.
- **Schedule** (informal) for planned research work for the entire funding period (including possible extension)
- **Declaration from the scientific supervisor in Germany [https://static.daad.de/media/daad_de/word-excel-nicht-barrierefrei/in-deutschland-studieren-forschen-lehren/a436_zusatz_betreuungszusage_dual-use.docx]** on safety-relevant and ethical aspects of the research project. Please upload the document in addition to the confirmation from the academic host in the portal under ‘Scientific Ethics/research safety’.

'Scientific ethics/research safety'.

- If applicable: **Proof of admission to/enrolment for** doctoral studies at the home university, including the start date
- **all university degree certificates** you have already obtained (e.g. Bachelor's, Master's), stating your final grade(s). If you do not have your most recent degree certificate at the time of application, you must submit it before the start date of your scholarship. In the meantime, please upload a provisional document to the portal. Please upload these documents under 'university degree certificates' in the DAAD portal.
- **Transcripts of Records** (undergraduate and postgraduate programmes) showing individual grades. Please upload the documents under 'transcript of records/academic achievements'.
- **Option a) Bi-national supervision: Written confirmation, agreed and signed by both academic advisers.** The confirmation must refer to your project and guarantee that the host institute in Germany will provide you with a workplace. **Your research project must have been agreed with both academic advisers.** Also read our → Important Scholarship Information [https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/scholarships/important-information-for-scholarship-applicants/] / section C, point 3. Please upload the confirmation from the academic adviser under 'acceptance of host institution' in the DAAD portal.
- **Option b) 'Cotutelle model':** Individual cooperation contract between the home university and the cooperating German university (**Cotutelle contract**). If this is not yet available at the time of application, you must submit it later before the funding period begins. In this case, you must upload a **confirmation** from your academic adviser in Germany, which refers to your project. Please upload the documents under 'acceptance of host institution' in the DAAD portal.
- One recent, supporting **letter of recommendation** from a university teacher which provides information about your qualifications (see also the → Important Scholarship Information [https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/scholarships/important-information-for-scholarship-applicants/] . Please regard the instructions given on the tab **'Submitting an application'**.
- German or English translations of documents submitted in the national language (to be uploaded with the corresponding documents)
- Proof of German / English language proficiency according to language of research. Please also read our → important information [https://www.daad.de/en/studying-in-germany/scholarships/information-for-scholarship-applicants/] for scholarship applicants / Section A, point 9 and Section D, point 5 to 8 for further information).
- Explanation of grading system (to be uploaded in the portal under "University degree certificates")

Optional:

- Other documents which support your application (example: certificates of employment, proof of practical training/internships or voluntary commitment, etc.)

The application procedure occurs online through the DAAD portal.
Applications for this scholarship programme are possible between **1 June** and the stated application deadline.
Please note that the access to the application portal only appears while the current application period is running. After the application deadline has expired, the portal for this programme is not available until the next application period.

Please note

- Your application is only valid if you submit all the required documents to the DAAD portal by the application deadline.
- The DAAD portal closes at 24.00 hrs. (CET or CEST) on the last application day. **If possible, please do not send your application on the final date in case technical problems occur.**
- Incomplete applications cannot be considered. You are responsible for ensuring that your applications are complete.

- The application documents remain with the DAAD. Your personal data is saved by the DAAD in accordance with the Federal Data Protection Act and with the EU Data Protection Regulation insofar as this data is needed to process the application.

Contact and Consulting

Information and advisory centres

DAAD Information Centre Santiago de Chile
Las Hortensias 2340, c/o Heidelberg Center para América Latina (HCLA)
Providencia, Santiago de Chile
Chile
Tel.: +56 (9)/3547 5060
E-Mail.: ic@daad.cl [mailto:ic@daad.cl]
WWW.: http://www.daad.cl [http://www.daad.cl]

More detailed information

- DAAD website
  → 'Important information for DAAD scholarship applicants' [https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/scholarships/important-information-for-scholarship-applicants/]
- DAAD website section → 'Doing a PhD and Research in Germany' [https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/phd-studies-and-research/]
- Website 'Research in Germany' [https://www.research-in-germany.org/en.html]
- Website 'GERiT – German Research Institutions' [https://www.gerit.org/en/]
- In many countries, there are DAAD-lecturers whom you can contact with questions you may have about studying or conducting research in Germany. Take a look at → our map [https://www.daad.de/de/im-ausland-studieren-forschen-lehren/lehren-im-ausland/daad-lektorenprogramm/karte/] to find out where they are.

Funded by:

Federal Foreign Office

Please also take note of our important scholarship information [https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/scholarships/important-information-for-scholarship-applicants/].

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